

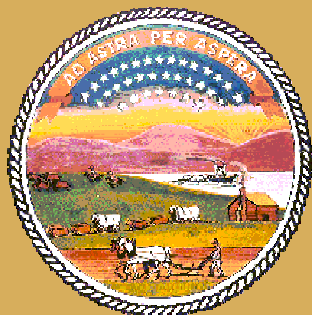


State Conservation Commission

2008 Annual Report

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HorseThief Reservoir, Jetmore, Kansas

HorseThief Reservoir Under Construction

The Pawnee Watershed District and the HorseThief Reservoir Benefit District broke ground in April 2008 for the 450 - acre lake located eight miles west of Jetmore. Construction of the dam is slated for completion in the Fall of 2009. This Multipurpose structure will provide flood control and a wide range of outdoor activities including fishing, boating, water skiing, camping, and picnicking.



*Principal Spillway Installation
HorseThief Reservoir*



Construction, HorseThief Reservoir

WATER RESOURCES COST-SHARE PROGRAM

Overview

The Water Resources Cost-Share Program (WRCSP) provides financial incentives to landowners for the establishment of conservation practices that reduce soil erosion, improve or protect water quality, and enhance water supplies. Major program objectives include: 1) reducing sedimentation, nutrient and pesticide runoff, and fecal coliform bacteria loading in targeted public water supply reservoirs, 2) reducing soil erosion on cropland and grazing lands.

The WRCSP was authorized by amending K.S.A 2-1915 in 1979 and was first funded in 1980. The conservation district in each county, managed by 525 locally elected supervisors, administers the program at the local level. The State Conservation Commission (SCC) develops regulations, policy, and procedures to guide program implementation. The SCC and conservation districts are assisted in implementation of the program by the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). All structures or practices cost-shared by the SCC through the WRCSP are required to be built to NRCS standards and specifications.



Terraced Field

FY 2008 Achievements

The 2007 Legislature appropriated \$3,418,063 for the program. The majority of these funds were directly allocated to conservation districts for local and state priorities. Water quality protection through reduction of soil erosion was the major focus of the program. Practices receiving the majority of funds included terraces, waterways, ponds, grass plantings, and pasture and rangeland management. Funds were also allocated to high priority Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) watersheds to reduce the level of nutrients, pesticides, dissolved oxygen and bacteria.



Solar Water Supply

FY 2009 Activities

An amount of \$3,418,136 was available for allocation in FY 2009, which began on July 1, 2008. Carryover funds from FY 2008 were not included in the initial allocation. Appropriated funds are broken down into sub-categories and allocated to county conservation districts for program implementation. Sub-categories include:

- ⇒ District Needs Allocation - These funds generally address sedimentation; erosion; nutrient, pesticide, and bacteria loading; and water conservation within the county. The local conservation district determines eligibility and priorities.
- ⇒ Water Quality Allocation - Funds are directed to high priority watersheds for the restoration and protection of water quality. Only practices directly affecting water quality are eligible. Targeted watersheds include High Priority TMDL's in 11 of the 12 major river basins.

FY 2010 Planned Activities

A total of \$3,140,287 has been requested for cost-share implementation in FY 2010. Into FY 2010, the demands of reducing sedimentation above water supply reservoirs and TMDL's will continue to drive program goals and outcomes. Conservation districts will be encouraged to implement local programs that focus on sedimentation, fecal coliform bacteria, pesticides, and nutrient runoff. Also in FY 2010, the SCC is continuing to fund technical assistance agreements that address providing additional staff resources to NRCS for Best Management Practice implementation using State Water Plan funds. As the appropriation for federal Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and other conservation programs increase, so does the demand for technical assistance. NRCS can not provide all the technical assistance required to implement state cost-share programs and still meet its federal obligations in some counties.

NON-POINT SOURCE POLLUTION CONTROL PROGRAM

Overview

The Non-Point Source Pollution Control Program (NPSPCP) is a voluntary program providing technical and financial assistance to implement non-point source pollution control measures for the protection and restoration of surface and ground water quality. The program was authorized under K.S.A. 75-5657, K.S.A. 82a-903 and K.S.A. 82a-951 by the 1989 Legislature.

Conservation districts receive funding from the SCC in the form of grants and financial assistance provided to landowners on a cost-share basis to implement a locally developed Non-Point Source (NPS) Pollution Management Plan. All one-hundred five conservation districts currently receive funding for financial assistance to landowners. In addition, counties receive funding for technical assistance and project coordination, and to support water quality information and education activities.



Livestock Waste Containment

FY 2008 Achievements

NPS projects implemented by conservation districts and landowners in FY 2008 totaled \$3,052,035 in cost-share funds. Water quality protection through reduction in bacteria in streams was the major focus of the program. Practices receiving the majority of funds include upgrading failed onsite wastewater systems, livestock water supplies to address riparian area protection, pasture and rangeland management, and livestock waste management. An amount of \$821,000 was available for the implementation of Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) Plans. These funds were committed to 20 streambank protection projects above public water supply federal reservoirs. Funds were also committed to high priority TMDL watersheds to reduce the level of nutrients, pesticides, dissolved oxygen and bacteria.

FY 2009 Activities

A total of \$3,917,710 was available for allocation for program implementation activities in FY 2009. Funds were available in the following categories:

- ⇒ Funds for Best Management Practices to address bacteria loading, nutrients and low dissolved oxygen in streams and sedimentation above federal public water supply reservoirs.
- ⇒ Funds for technical assistance to conservation districts for program implementation.
- ⇒ Funds for information and education to conservation districts. Also funds were targeted to No-till education for No-till field days and registration costs for landowners that are first time attendees to the No-till on the Plains Conference.



Abandoned Water Well

FY 2010 Planned Activities

An amount of \$4.21 million has been requested for the NPSPCP in FY 2010. This amount includes a \$594,796 enhancement for WRAPS implementation. The WRAPS implementation funds will be targeted to practices to reduce sediment above public water supply reservoirs and practices to reduce bacteria in streams. The SCC will continue developing and promoting an implementation strategy to contribute to the primary TMDL program objective of restoring and maintaining the beneficial uses of impaired water bodies.

KANSAS WATER QUALITY BUFFER INITIATIVE

Overview

The Kansas Water Quality Buffer Initiative, enacted by the 1998 Legislature by amending K.S.A. 2-1915, is an incentive program complementing the Federal Conservation Reserve Program. State incentives supplement federal incentives to encourage the establishment of riparian forest buffers and vegetative filter strips. The SCC will enter into 10-15 year contracts, subject to annual appropriation, to compensate landowners for acres enrolled in the initiative. Supplemental payments offered under the Initiative will match 30-50 percent of the federal payment, based on the type of vegetation planted. The Initiative also provides property tax incentives for landowners statewide that enroll buffers adjacent to streams in the Conservation Reserve Program. The state buffer eligible area now includes all high priority TMDL and federal drinking water reservoir watersheds in the state.



Buffer Strip

FY 2008 Achievements

The SCC entered into 145 contracts with landowners to install 766 acres of grass filter strips and riparian forest buffers. At the end of State Fiscal Year 2008 there were 1,753 contracts in place for a total of 11,261 acres of grass filter strips and riparian forest buffers. In addition, approximately \$370,000 was provided, through a partnership with the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP), the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) and the State Conservation Commission (SCC), to 43 counties. This funding will allow districts to hire additional staff devoted to promoting buffers and applicable buffer programs.

FY 2009 Activities

The State Fiscal Year 2009 Buffer Initiative budget request was \$350,000. The current appropriation includes funds for technical and educational assistance, continued rental payments for FY 1999 – FY 2008 contracts, and sufficient

funding to enroll approximately 2,500 new acres. In State FY 2009, forty-eight counties are participating in the partnership with the KDWP, the KDHE and the SCC to



Buffer Strip

promote buffers and applicable buffer programs.

FY 2010 Planned Activities

In the FY 2010 budget request, the SCC has proposed a continuation of the Buffer Initiative. An amount of \$310,000 was requested to continue enrollment in the current target areas and provide technical assistance for the program. Additional program funding will be needed in the future to continue enrolling new contracts in this program. The need for the state to begin addressing nutrient TMDL's will most likely necessitate further expansion of the state buffer eligible area in future years. Due to the popularity and the high amount of environmental benefits provided by these buffers, continuation of this program will benefit our state's water, wildlife, and economy for years to come.

RIPARIAN & WETLAND PROTECTION PROGRAM

Overview

The program was developed through the State Water Plan and authorized in 1989 by amending K.S.A 2-1915. The goal of the Riparian and Wetland Protection Program (RWPP) is to protect, enhance, and restore riparian areas, wetlands, and associated habitats by providing technical, educational, and financial assistance to landowners and the public in general. Major objectives of the program are the design and installation of projects which demonstrate the effectiveness of riparian and wetland protection in terms of stream functions, water quality and wildlife benefits, and to increase the knowledge and awareness of landowners, and the general public on the value and benefits of these natural areas.



Riparian Forest Buffer

FY 2008 Achievements

In FY 2008, the RWPP assisted landowners in providing supplemental funding for 11 NRCS EQIP streambank stabilization projects. These funds helped to leverage nearly \$600,000 in Federal funds.

FY 2009 Activities

The program will continue to focus on providing information, training, and \$251,782 in financial assistance to better manage and protect riparian and wetland resources through FY 2009. Riparian area restoration, buffers, streambank stabilization and wetlands will play a significant role in addressing the TMDL's. The majority of the program funds will be targeted to these high priority areas. In FY 2009, the RWPP again plans to supplement EQIP streambank stabilization projects with program funds.



Streambank Stabilization - Before



Streambank Stabilization - After

FY 2010 Planned Activities

In the FY 2010 budget request, the SCC has requested \$250,000 to continue partnering with the NRCS EQIP streambank stabilization projects. In FY 2010, the RWPP will continue to focus on state identified priority watershed restoration areas and will continue identifying, evaluating, and submitting potential stream restoration projects for EQIP funding.

MINED LAND RECLAMATION PROGRAM

Overview

The Surface Mining Land Conservation and Reclamation Act (K.S.A. 49-601-624) was established by the Kansas Legislature in 1994 to require reclamation and conservation of lands affected by surface mining. Since 1994, nearly 5,000 acres have been reclaimed and returned to productive property for cropland, recreation, hunting and fishing, housing development, wildlife habitat, and pasturelands. The Act requires producers who mine aggregate, industrial materials, and minerals, except coal, be licensed to operate a mine, register mining sites, file a reclamation plan for each site, submit a reclamation bond, and reclaim mining sites upon completion of mining operations.



Reclaimed Fogle Quarry - Ottawa

FY 2008 Achievements

In FY 2008, 134 private producers, and 60 counties and cities were licensed to conduct surface mining in the state. The operators have registered 464 private sites and 651 county sites for a total of 1,115 sites. A total of 39,638,651 tons of material produced were reported in calendar year 2007. Also in 2007, 1,493 acres were affected, and 471 acres were reclaimed and released from bond.



Moore Quarry Before



Moore Quarry After

Bayer Construction Company, Inc., Manhattan, was recipient of the Governor's Mined Land Reclamation Award for reclaiming 58 acres back to the original Tall Grass Prairie at the Moore Quarry located south of Zeandale in Riley County. This reclamation effort later received the 2008 National Non-Coal Reclamation Award by the National Association of State Land Reclamationists.

FY 2009 Activities

The Land Reclamation Program is fee funded by:

- ⇒ Issuing licenses to new producers and renewing active producer's licenses.
- ⇒ Collecting site registration fees for new and active sites: \$45.00 per affected acre. .003 cents per ton production.

Fees collected provide for two Full-Time Employees (FTE) positions and other operational expenditures to carry out the activities required in K.S.A.49-601-614:

- ⇒ Provide guidance and assistance in the development and completion of reclamation plans.
- ⇒ Enhance Reclamation Plans through digital GPS imagery, site inspections, and digital photography.
- ⇒ Conduct site inspections to assist operators with reclamation requirements, licensing, and closure.
- ⇒ Disseminate updated information for licenses, reclamation bonds, reclamation standards, administrative regulations and other related information.

FY 2010 Planned Activities

The Mined Land Reclamation Program staff will continue to assist producers with licensing, new site registration, reviewing reclamation plans, site expansion, reclamation process and requirements, reclamation bonds, final reclamation, and site closure. GPS calculations will provide maps, area determination, and survey information to the operators and county planners. Staff will assist local planners, zoning officials, and county commissioners with mining and reclamation concerns.

MULTIPURPOSE SMALL LAKES PROGRAM

Overview

The objectives of the Multipurpose Small Lakes Program (MPSLP) are (1) to develop, to its fullest potential a site that is planned for flood control and water supply and or recreation and (2) to renovate existing lakes that have potential to provide long-term flood control, water supply and recreation benefits. This program was enacted in 1985 as a result of recommendations in the State Water Plan.

The SCC has the responsibility to administer the Multipurpose Small Lakes Program Act (K.S.A. 82a-1601 et seq.), as authorized by K.S.A. 2-1915. The program budget is financed from the dedicated funding of the State Water Plan Fund.



*Critzer Dam
First Filling May, 2007*

FY 2008 Achievements

The total state funding encumbered for the construction of HorseThief Reservoir is \$3.3 million. This reservoir, located in and across Buckner Creek is a tributary to the Pawnee River, southwest Hodgeman County, is for flood control and recreation. The estimated total cost of the project is approximately \$15 million, including state funding of \$4.5 million. Sponsored by the Pawnee Watershed Joint District No. 81, HorseThief Reservoir will control runoff from 123,520 acres and will store 12,868 acre-feet of floodwater. Once full, the reservoir will provide 450 surface acres for water-based recreation. Nearly 1,000 acres of land adjacent to the lake will be developed for recreational use as well.



HorseThief: Core Trench

FY 2009 Activities

HorseThief construction groundbreaking was celebrated on April 19, 2008. At the time of this report, the core trench, the concrete-bentonite slurry wall and the foundation (pipe cradle) for the 60-inch steel principal spillway were completed. Approximately 25% of construction is complete. In FY 2009, the HorseThief contract was amended to \$4.5 million in state funding. The construction is planned to be complete in the Fall of 2009.

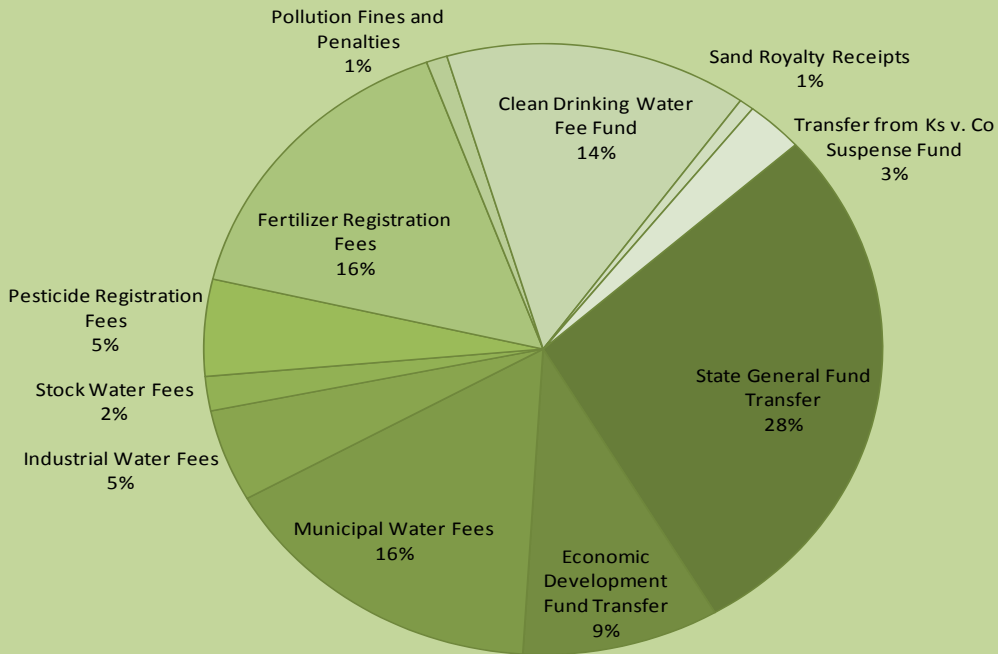


HorseThief: Principal Spillway Footing

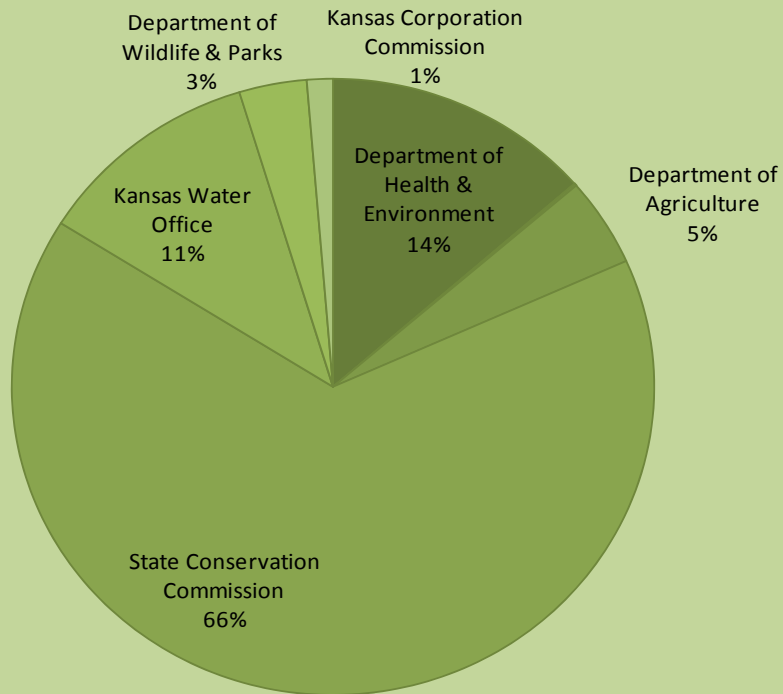
FY 2010 Planned Activities

No activities planned for FY 2010 as the SCC has no applications for MPSLP cost-share assistance.

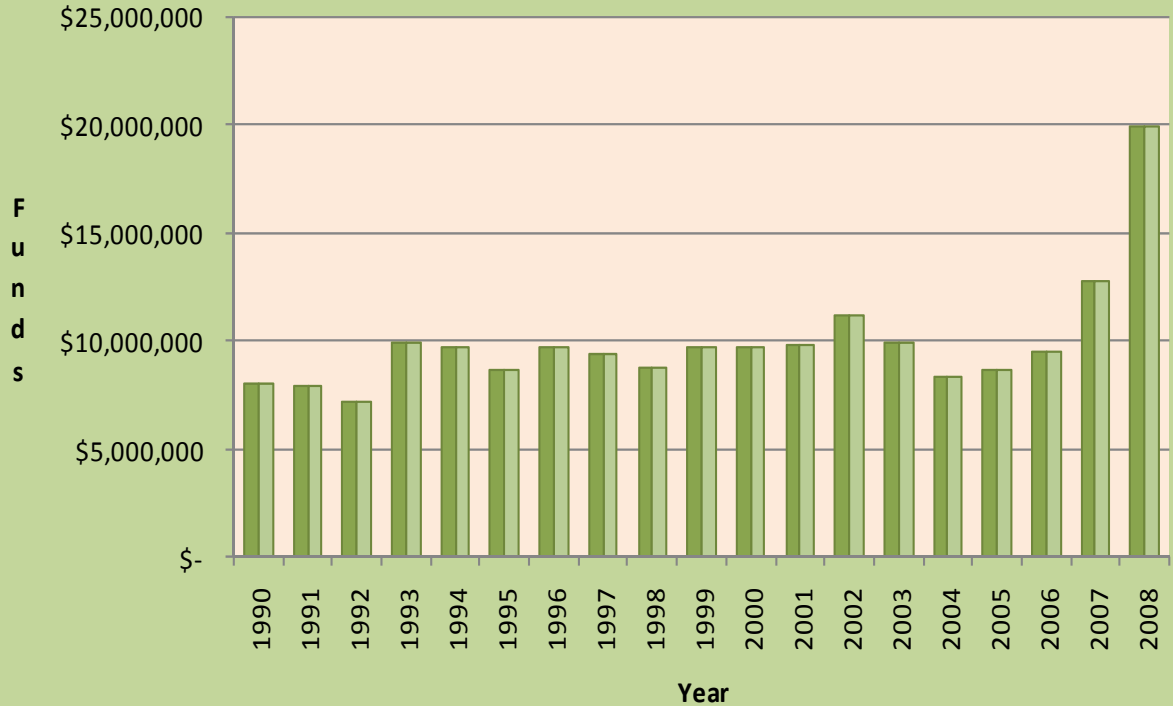
FY 2008 State Water Plan Fund Sources



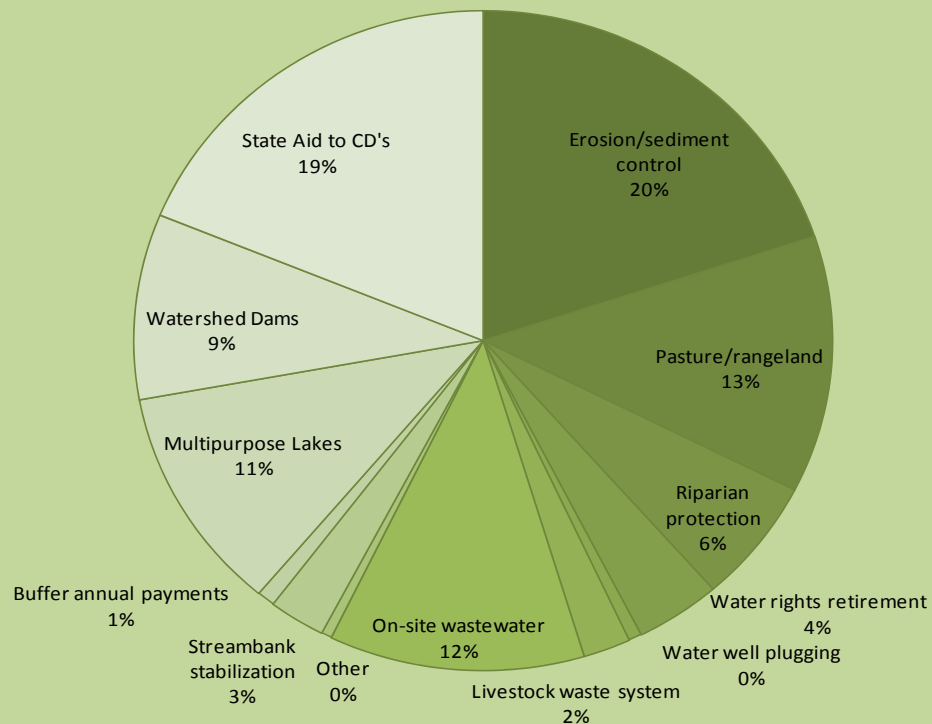
FY 2008 State Water Plan Agency Distribution



FY 2008 State Water Plan Funds to SCC



FY 2008 SCC Implementation State Water Plan Funds



WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Overview

The Water Right Transition Assistance Pilot Project Program (WTAP) and the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) are the main components of SCC efforts to address Kansas Water Plan management initiatives through the voluntary, incentive-based retirements of privately held water rights. Only those which can result in significant water conservation benefits to the State's rivers, streams, and aquifers are selected for these grants.

WTAP was authorized in 2006. Its purpose is to reduce the "Historic Consumptive Water Use" in targeted, high priority areas. Compensation is determined by an available fixed, flat rate established annually by the SCC and a competitive bid price submitted by the owner. In WTAP, dryland farming is permitted after water right retirement. There are currently three WTAP project areas – Rattlesnake Creek, Prairie Dog Creek, and six high priority areas in Groundwater Management District #4 (GMD).



Inefficient sprinkler irrigation

In 2007, the use of KS vs CO lawsuit damage award monies were authorized to permanently retire water rights in the Upper Arkansas River CREP, a 10 county project area in western Kansas. In this specialized version of the extremely popular CRP program, the landowner agrees to permanently retire water rights and plant a permanent cover (i.e. native grass) on the contracted land in return for a 14-15 year rental rate from FSA and a sign-up incentive payment from SCC.

FY 2008 Achievements

WTAP – During the first enrollment period of Fall 2007, only four applications were received. One qualified application in the Rattlesnake Creek area was approved at a bid price of \$83,027. SCC then worked with DWR, GMDs and stakeholders groups to make program adjustments and enhance landowner participation. The 2008 Legislature authorized \$998,000 in additional appropriations.

CREP – Since December 20, 2007, 63 separate offers on 13,295 acres have been received. As of June 30, 2008, 13 CREP offers representing 1,627 acres and 3,434 acre-feet retired had been granted final approval with State payments totaling \$100,812.62 (and \$2.9 M in total FSA payments). Forty-nine offers on tracts totaling 7,774.2 acres were still awaiting final processing / recommendations for CRP-1 approval pending water right division agreements, return of documents, etc. [Other offers on 23 tracts totaling 4,670.4 acres have been withdrawn for various reasons including land sales, changes of tenants / operators, program disqualification, uncertainty about commodity prices, etc.] Enrollment is continuous.

FY 2009 Activities

WTAP – Program rules were revised in FY 2009 to enhance landowner interest and enrollment. The grant compensation method was changed to a very simplified fixed price-point formula. A Spring enrollment period was also added. The DWR Chief Engineer approved six high priority areas in GMD #4. WTAP has been promoted extensively. The FY 2009 budget for WTAP is \$3,448,812.

CREP – Processing of offers in FY 2009 will result in total enrollment of more than 7,000 acres and 13,000 acre-feet of dismissed water rights (total expenditure of \$400,000 in State funds). Producer meetings will again be held in FY 2009 to promote landowner interest and participation.

FY 2010 Planned Activities

WTAP – Continue to achieve program goals in the target areas. SCC will request the annual budgetary limit of \$1.5 million and to carry over any unexpended FY 2009 funds.

CREP – Continue to achieve program goals in the project area. SCC will request any unexpended FY 2009 funds be carried over to FY 2010, and if possible, that the current Agreement with USDA be expanded to the current legislatively authorized limit of 40,000 acres.

WATERSHED DAM CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM

Overview

The Watershed Dam Construction Program (WDCP) provides financial assistance to organized watershed districts, drainage districts, or other special-purpose districts for the construction of detention dams and grade stabilization dams. Since inception in 1977, the Legislature has and continues to appropriate funds for cost-share assistance for the construction of new dams. In 2006, the legislature recognized that time and weather take their toll on aging structures, and started a new chapter for cost-share assistance for the rehabilitation (including inundation mapping) of existing flood control dams.

The SCC has the responsibility to administer the Watershed District Act (K.S.A. 24-1201 et seq.), as authorized by K.S.A. 2-1915. The program budget is financed from the dedicated funding of the State Water Plan Fund.

Flood control dams are needed in flood-prone areas as well as in drought stricken areas, to enhance the land for further productivity, to protect our natural resources and our infrastructures (roads and bridges), to provide water for livestock and in many cases provide hydrants for rural fire departments.



Grouse-Silver Creeks WJD 92

FY 2008 Achievements

The 2007 Legislature appropriated \$1,140,529 for this program, including \$85,529 FY 2007 carryover funds.

Construction:

- ⇒ 4 new sites, above federal reservoirs, for \$352,000
- ⇒ 4 new sites, statewide, for \$336,600

Rehabilitation:

- ⇒ 2 sites, above federal reservoirs, for \$41,600
- ⇒ 7 sites, statewide, for \$125,119

Inundation Mapping:

- ⇒ 28 sites, above federal reservoirs, for \$90,419
- ⇒ 18 sites, statewide, for \$76,675

FY 2009 Activities

Appropriated funds are broken down into three sub-categories: construction, rehabilitation and inundation mapping.

- ⇒ There are 20 applications for state cost-share assistance for new construction of flood control structures requesting \$1,360,306.



- ⇒ SCC has 13 applications for rehabilitation requesting \$276,640

*Pipe Replacement - Pony Creek WJD
78 Site 124*

- ⇒ For inundation mapping, SCC received 16 applications requesting \$90,132.

FY 2010 Planned Activities

A total of \$1,055,000 has been requested for cost-share implementation in FY 2010. Into FY 2010, the demands of reducing sedimentation above federal reservoir with water supply component will continue to drive program goals and outcomes. The funding will cover the three sub-categories mentioned above. Watershed Districts are encouraged to apply for cost-share assistance for new construction of rehabilitation and inundation mapping of existing flood control structures.

The SCC will continue with more rehabilitation of existing flood abatement structures to bring them to safety and performance standards and to achieve and/or extend their intended purposes. The WDCP's strong emphasis is to have adequate operation and maintenance.

WATER SUPPLY RESTORATION PROGRAM

Overview

The 2007 Legislature amended K.S.A. 82a-2101 which authorizes the SCC to provide financial assistance funding for the Water Supply Restoration Program (WSRP). This program is a voluntary, incentive-based water program designed to assist eligible sponsors to protect and restore public water supply systems where appropriate watershed restoration and protection are planned or in place. The program budget is financed from the Clean Drinking Water Fee Fund through the State Water Plan Fund.



Mission Lake, City of Horton

FY 2008 Achievements

The SCC drafted, then adopted the rules and regulations of the WSRP to address the expenditure and the administration of the funding.

A pilot project, Mission Lake, City of Horton, was selected. The scope of services calls for dredging approximately 1,000,000 cubic yards to restore some of the water supply lost storage. The state funding obligated for this project is \$2,600,000, while the sponsor contribution is about \$4,000,000.

The Washington County Rural Water District No.1 (RWD) structure, in and across the Big Blue River, was selected as the second WSRP project for restoration.

FY 2009 Activities

The SCC and the sponsor of the Mission Lake pilot project continue to work together to identify necessary steps: preliminary engineering (done), permits (in progress) and engineering, before starting the dredge. The SCC and the RWD are working through the initial steps to restore the Big Blue River low-head dam which will result in maintaining the water level in the aquifer of the district well field area. The state funding appropriated for the RWD for FY 2009 is \$882,069.



Dredge

FY 2010 Planned Activities

The SCC plans to begin dredging Mission Lake, and continue working with the RWD to finish the preliminary engineering study, acquire necessary permits and start the design of the restoration.

AID TO CONSERVATION DISTRICTS PROGRAM

Overview

State Aid to Conservation Districts, also known as Matching Funds, is a grant program providing financial assistance to Kansas Conservation Districts. The K.S.A. 2-1907c authorizes the state to match up to \$25,000 per district of the annual amount allocated to conservation districts by the board of county commissioners. This match provides an incentive for the county commission to double county funding up to the state maximum amount. These funds assist the 105 county conservation districts to effectively deliver local, state, and federal natural resource programs as prescribed under the Conservation District Law (K.S.A. 2-1901 et seq.). Financial assistance enables conservation districts to:

- ⇒ Hire administrative and technical staff.
- ⇒ Acquire office supplies and equipment.
- ⇒ Coordinate various conservation programs.
- ⇒ Implement state financial assistance programs at the local level.
- ⇒ Carry out information and education campaigns promoting conservation.
- ⇒ Provide clerical assistance to NRCS.



*Morris County Conservation District
Board Members & Staff*

A local five-member board, known as district supervisors, governs each conservation district. District supervisors are elected public officials who serve without pay. The 525 district supervisors donate nearly 50,000 hours per year establishing local priorities, setting policy, and administering programs to conserve natural resources and protect water quality.

FY 2008 Achievements

Funds appropriated to the 105 conservation districts totaled \$2,127,242. Forty-eight conservation districts received the maximum grant of \$25,000. Districts received \$2,828,633 from counties. Grants are issued to conservation districts based upon receipt of a satisfactory audit of 2005 accounts, receipts, and disbursements as well as certification of actual county funds provided to districts.



*Multi-County no-till farming tour
sponsored by conservation districts*

FY 2009 Activities

The program has been appropriated \$2,264,831 for FY 2009. Based on conservation district input and budget information, districts receiving additional funds were able to purchase field equipment to rent, update office equipment, expanded youth and adult educational programs, increased employee compensation/health benefits, and hire additional staff. The eight conservation districts that were affected by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office closings now have a stand-alone office and are paying rent and utility bills, as well as purchasing office equipment/supplies that were previously provided by NRCS. The increased funding has been vital for these conservation districts to maintain a presence in the county.

FY 2010 Planned Activities

For FY 2010, \$2,255,919 is requested for the purpose of providing state financial assistance to conservation districts. Sixty-five conservation districts would receive the \$25,000 maximum amount from the state with county commissions contributing \$3,001,451. Grant assistance from this request will be distributed in July 2009 to each conservation district who has submitted to the SCC a certification of actual county funds provided to the district and an audit of 2007 accounts, receipts, and disbursements.

BENEFIT AREA PROGRAM

Overview

The Benefit Area Program, authorized by K.S.A. 82a-1702 in 1963, was transferred from the Kansas Water Office (KWO) to the SCC by the 1986 Legislature. The program provides a method for public corporations, namely watershed districts, to be reimbursed for specific expenses when more than 20 percent of the benefits of a flood control structure are outside the taxing entities boundary.

The program was repealed by the 1995 Legislature but re-established by the 1996 Legislature. Only two known entities are eligible for the program: the Upper Black Vermillion Watershed District and the Wet Walnut Watershed District.

FY 2008 Achievements

In FY 2008, no funding for the program was appropriated.

FY 2009 Activities

In FY 2009, no funding for the program was appropriated.

FY 2010 Planned Activities

In FY 2010, no activity is anticipated.

WATERSHED PLANNING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Overview

The 1958 Legislature amended K.S.A. 2-1904(d)(6) which authorizes the SCC to cooperate with watershed districts and other special purpose districts to secure federal funds for the P.L. 566 Small Watershed Program. Funds were appropriated from FY 1959 through 1980 to assist districts in the development of watershed protection plans which were a prerequisite to receiving federal watershed dam construction funding. Planning assistance funds were phased out by the 1980 Legislature in favor of state funds for watershed construction. The 1987 Legislature appropriated funds to reinstate the watershed planning program. Since 1990, the SCC's planning assistance efforts have been considered a sub-program of the Watershed Dam Construction Program.

In addition to providing planning assistance for the federal construction program, the SCC has also assisted districts in the study of watershed dam impacts on threatened and endangered species and the promotion of non-structural watershed protection practices. Most recently, watershed planning funds have been used to assist a newly formed watershed district in the development of its general plan.

FY 2008 Achievements

In FY 2008, no funding for the program was appropriated.

FY 2009 Activities

In FY 2009, no funding for the program was appropriated.

FY 2010 Planned Activities

In FY 2010, no activity is anticipated.



State Conservation Commission

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The State Conservation Commission (SCC) was established by the Kansas Legislature in 1937 to promote soil and water conservation. The SCC is governed by nine members consisting of an elected commissioner from each of the five conservation areas; two ex-officio members representing KSU Research and Extension; and two appointed members representing the Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA) and the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The agency is administered by an executive director appointed by the commissioners.

The SCC has the responsibility to administer the Conservation Districts Law (K.S.A. 2-1901 et seq), the Watershed District Act (K.S.A. 24-1201 et seq.), and other statutes authorizing various programs. The agency budget is financed from the dedicated funding of the State Water Plan Special Revenue Fund, State General Fund, and fee funds.

The agency is structured as a single program agency, but operates several subprograms that tie both to the mission of the SCC and many stated goals of the State Water Plan. One of the goals of the SCC is to administer efficiently those subprograms that enhance and protect the state's natural resources. The agency pursues this goal by working with the 105 conservation districts and 88 organized watershed districts, along with other local, state and federal entities.

State Conservation Commission Members

Elected Members

Rodney Vorhees, Area V, Fredonia, Chairperson

John Wunder, Area IV, Valley Falls, Vice-Chairperson

Ted Nighswonger, Area I, Edmond

Andrew Larson, Jr., Area II, Garden City

Brad Shogren, Area III, Lindsborg

Ex-Officio Members

Dr. Daniel L. Devlin, KSU, Research and Extension

Dr. Phil Barnes, KSU, Biological & Agricultural Engineering

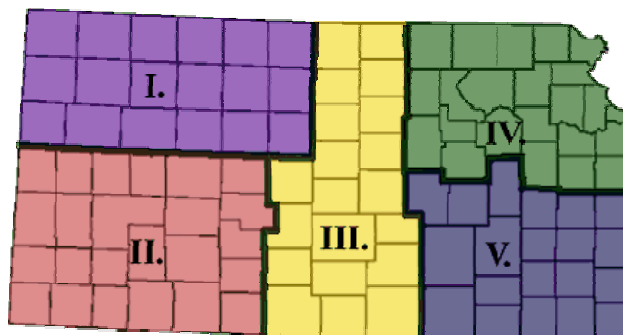
Appointed Members

Dave Barfield, Kansas Department of Agriculture

Eric Banks, USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service

Executive Director

Greg A. Foley, State Conservation Commission





Relocated Livestock Water Supply To Enhance Grazing Distribution



State Conservation Commission

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